

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1917

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMBAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 3313

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CE,UR

SUBJ: MRS. BANDARANAIKE'S VISIT TO THE USSR

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: MOSCOW 17511

1. DIRECTOR, WEST, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MDFA) BALASUBRAMANIAM PROVIDED EMBOFF WITH RUNDOWN OF PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE'S VISIT TO SOVIET UNION. HIS PRESENTATION AGREED WITH COMMENTS CONTAINED REFTTEL BUT ALSO INCLUDED SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

2. BIGGEST SUPRISE WAS SOVIETS' "OUTRIGHT GIFT" OF TRAINING VESSEL FOR SRI LANKA NAVY (SLN) REPORT OF WHICH WAS CARRIED PROMINENTLY IN LOCAL PRESS AND CONFIRMED BY CONFIDENTIAL

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BALASUBRAMANIAM. HE SAID GSL DID NOT HAVE FULL DETAILS

BUT THAT VESSEL WOULD BE 2005/PCS, HAVE CREW OF 30,
COULD STAY AT SEA FOR 10 DAYS, WOULD HAVE SOME GUNS,
AND WOULD BE BIGGER THAN PATROL BOATS CHINESE HAD
PROVIDED. CEYLONSE HAD ASKED FOR FOUR CARGO SHIPS ON EASY TERMS
BUT RECEIVED "GIFT" FOR SLN INSTEAD.

3. BALASUBRAMANIAN ALSO SAID SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR
JOINT ECONOMIC PLANNING WAS NEW DEPARTURE WHICH WAS AGREED
TO DURING VISIT. ILLUSTRATION GIVEN WAS THAT CEYLONSE
WOULD EXPAND PRODUCTION OF SOME COMMODITY AND SOVIETS
WOULD GUARANTEE MARKET FOR
INCREASED PRODUCTION AND WOULD
SUPPLY PLANT, MACHINERY AND TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE AS
REQUIRED. BALASUBRAMANIAN SAID KOSYGIN MENTIONED
COCOA AS ONE ITEM WHICH COULD FALL UNDER THIS SCHEME.
SOVIET PLANNING EXPERTS ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN
COLOMBO SOON TO BEGIN THESE JOINT PLANNING TALKS.

4. ON COMCHINA, BALASUBRAMANIAN (WHO HAS SERVED IN PEKING)
SAID THAT SOVIETS HAD ENGAGED IN TIRADE WHICH HE DESCRIBED
AS "PATHOLOGICAL."

5. FINALLY, BALASUBRAMANIAN INDICATED MDFA IS STILL
SMARTING FROM FACT THAT SOVIET LEADER HAD NOT COME TO
COLOMBO, THAT SOVIETS HAD BEEN ABLE TO PUT ENOUGH PRESSURE
ON MRS. BANDARANAIKE TO GET HER TO COME TO MOSCOW, AND
THAT PROMISE OF MEETING WITH BREZHNEV WAS NOT HONORED.
HE COMPARED THIS WITH GOING TO CHINA AND NOT SEEING MAO.
WE DO NOT KNOW IF MRS. BANDARANAIKE SHARES MDFA'S PIQUE.
BYRNE

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